

July 26, 2018

The Hon. Orrin Hatch
U.S. Senator
104 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Hon. Michael Bennet
U.S. Senator
261 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Hon. Todd Young
U.S. Senator
400 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hatch, Senator Bennet, and Senator Young,

As local, state, and national organizations committed to investing in what works, we are writing to express our support for the Fund for Innovation and Success in Higher Education (FINISH) Act.

American colleges and universities have great untapped potential to increase economic opportunity and strengthen our democracy. Yet despite the fact that a growing number of higher education institutions and their partners have developed an increasing number of evidence-based solutions, we must accelerate this progress more broadly across the country.

We commend you for introducing the FINISH Act, which would leverage the power of evidence and innovation to improve outcomes in higher education. Specifically, we appreciate the inclusion of provisions in your legislation that would:

- create a tiered-evidence innovation fund that would test, replicate, and scale up successful approaches to improving access to and completion in higher education, including partnerships among states, nonprofits, K-12 institutions, and institutions of higher education;
- encourage institutions of higher education to create open educational resources;
- authorize 5 pilot Pay for Success initiatives that would invest federal funds in proven solutions once they demonstrate results; and
- authorize the U.S. Department of Education and Institute of Education Sciences to invest up to 1 percent of federal funds in evaluations to continuously improve their impact and results.

We believe that strategic investments in innovation, evidence-based practices, and evaluations have the potential to help many more students access and succeed in higher education.

Thank you for your continued efforts to ensure that federal taxpayer dollars are invested in what works in higher education.

Sincerely,

Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors
 America Forward
 America's Promise Alliance
 AppleTree Institute for Education Innovation
 Bard College, Bard Early Colleges
 Bay Path University
 Bottom Line
 Cascade Philanthropy Advisors
 Center for the Social Organization of Schools,
 Johns Hopkins University
 Chiefs for Change
 Citizen Schools
 City Year
 College Forward
 College Possible
 Community Training and Assistance Center
 (CTAC)
 Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH)
 Deans for Impact
 Democracy Builders
 Dibble Institute
 Diverse Charter Schools Coalition
 EDGE Consulting LLC
 Education & Outreach Group, Sonoma State
 University
 Education Analytics
 Education Northwest
 Efficacy, LLC
 Eye to Eye National
 Farmingdale State College SUNY
 Friends of the Children
 Goodwill Industries International
 Green & Healthy Homes Initiative
 Green Dot Public Schools
 GreenLight Fund
 IDEA Public Schools
 iMentor
 Institute for Child Success
 Jobs for the Future
 JVS-Boston
 Knowledge Alliance
 KnowledgeWorks
 Literacy Design Collaborative
 Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)
 Marzano Research
 Maycomb Capital
 McREL International
 Millionair Club Charity
 National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades
 Reform
 National Prevention Science Coalition to
 Improve Lives
 New Classrooms Innovation Partners
 New Leaders

New Profit, Inc.
 Nonprofit Finance Fund
 PACE Center for Girls
 Programs for Academic Student Support at
 Texas A&M University-Commerce
 Project Evident
 Quantified Ventures
 Research Institute for Key Indicators LLC
 Research-Aligned Mentorship Program at
 Farmingdale State College SUNY
 Results for America
 RMC Research
 Root Cause
 SCORE
 Service Year Alliance
 Social Finance
 Sorenson Impact Center
 Success for All Foundation
 Teach For America
 The Policy & Research Group
 Third Sector Capital Partners, Inc.
 Third Way
 uAspire
 University of Virginia Pay for Success Lab
 University System of Maryland
 Wake Technical Community College
 Year Up

 Doug Harris, Professor of Economics, Tulane
 University
 Christine Mahoney, Director of Social
 Entrepreneurship, and Professor of
 Public Policy & Politics, University of
 Virginia
 Terry Mills, Assistant Provost for Student
 Success, John Carroll University
 Robert Pianta, Dean, Curry School of
 Education, University of Virginia
 Matt Segneri, Director, Harvard Business
 School Social Enterprise Initiative
 Kathy Stack, Former Deputy Associate
 Director for Education, Income
 Maintenance, and Labor, U.S. Office of
 Management and Budget
 Martin R. West, Professor of Education,
 Harvard University
 Diane Whitmore Schanzenbach, Director,
 Institute for Policy Research,
 Northwestern University, and former
 Director, The Hamilton Project, Brookings
 Institution

